

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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2. A device according to claim 1, comprising: a flat plate articulated on said carriage and adapted to oscillate between a position for abutment on said bar and an inactive position; and a sensor mounted on said flat plate and adapted to detect the abutment of said flat plate against one end of said bar and to activate said grip elements to grip said bar; said flat plate being retained in said abutment position by a lever which is articulated on said carriage and is controlled by a cam, said cam being adapted

10 to actuate said lever from a position for retaining said
11 flat plate in said abutment position into a position where
12 said flat plate can assume said inactive position.

1 3. A device according to claim 1, wherein said grip
2 elements are constituted by V-shaped blade elements which
3 are actuated in mutual contrast to grip the released bar
4 interposed between them.

1 4. A device according to claim 3, wherein said blade
2 elements are fixed on two respective posts which are
3 parallel and slidingly supported in said carriage and have
4 racks which mesh with a pinion, with which a lever is
5 radially rigidly coupled, a fluid-actuated jack mounted on
6 said carriage acting on said lever.

1 5. A device according to claim 4, wherein said
2 supporting elements are constituted by brackets provided
3 with supports for said released bar, said brackets being
4 connected by tie rods slideable therein to allow the
5 brackets to stack up on the side towards which said carriage
6 advances.

1 6. A device according to claim 5, wherein said pusher
2 is connected to a flexible traction element slideable in a
3 guide, means being provided for locking and rotating said
4 pusher from said offset position to an aligned position for
5 pushing on said bar when said carriage is in said final
6 position and said flat plate is in said inactive position.

1 7. A device according to claim 6, wherein said guide is
2 rotatably supported and said pusher is connected to said
3 flexible traction element by means of a flap which is guided
4 through a slot of said guide, said guide being actuated by a
5 fluid-actuated jack between said offset and aligned

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6 positions of said pusher with respect to said bar.

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